



Together with the community  
**we will speak out against**  
violence against women





Violence against women is preventable. We, as individuals and as a society, must speak out to address Australia's enduring problem with violence against women and promote gender equality.



## How is The Salvation Army advocating for change?

The Salvation Army knows from experience the grave impact that violence has on the health, wellbeing and lives of thousands of women and children.

- During 2018-19 financial year 13,850 people experiencing family domestic violence received our care
- A high proportion of women who enter our services are on insecure or unstable temporary visas, have no access to income and no other support
- Family violence is the primary reason for women and their children seeking our homelessness services: our data shows that 49% of single parents are homeless due to family violence and 2 in 5 children became homeless because of family violence
- The Salvation Army Family and Domestic Violence services were, and continue to be, impacted by the pandemic – providing 35,000+ sessions of care between January and June 2020, which is 500 sessions more than the same period last year

The Salvation Army is committed to helping people experiencing injustice, disadvantage and hardship. We advocate strongly to Commonwealth and state members of parliament, community leaders and the wider community to help eliminate violence against women. Most recently, we:

- Called for public policy changes to Australia's family law system
- Provided feedback on the draft Northern Territory Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Workforce and Sector Development Plan 2020–2028
- Developed a submission to the Victorian Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor
- Submitted national action recommendations to the House of Representatives Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence

To find out more about [how](#) to be involved and the issues we are advocating for, you can access all our reports and submissions [here](#).

## How can the community address violence against women?

As a community, we need to understand that violence is not always physical or visible.

Financial abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse or coercive control can be less obvious but just as harmful as physical violence. All these [forms of abuse](#) cause immediate and lasting harm to victim-survivors as well as others, especially children, who witness it.

We also need to look at other ways to support women experiencing violence in a way that meets their individual needs. Many women and children do not feel safe in their homes, and currently a lot of support requires the victim-survivor and their children to leave the family home. This leaves them in a precarious position. Women should have the ability to remain in their own homes – safely.

We also need to challenge language or structures that diminish equality, minimise violence against women or tacitly support discrimination.

## How can you address violence against women?

Be careful how you speak about violence. Call out people and organisations that use language which minimises or seeks to excuse violence against women.

As individuals, we must reflect on our own attitudes towards women and be strong community role models. We should challenge gender stereotypes and roles in the home, in relationships and in the workplace.

We need to look out for the people we care about. If someone tells you, explicitly or through subtle hints, that they are experiencing violence – believe them. If you can, help them access [support](#). If it is safe to do so, you can ring 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or go to [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au) and use the web chat.

And always, if you hear or suspect someone is in immediate danger, call the police on 000.

